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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. 1. A point of sale system, comprising:
 - 2 a central database facility storing and maintaining data relating to items to be sold at a point of sale and at least one user interface; and
 - 5 an application facility coupled to said central database facility via an electronic data network and configured to access said central database facility to receive said data related to said at least one user interface, to process said at least one user interface within a browser application executing within said application facility, and to process said data relating to said items 10 in real-time via said at least one user interface to facilitate a POS 11 operation related to said items.
- 1 2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said electronic 2 data network is the Internet and said browser application is 3 a web browser.
- 1 3. The system according to claim 1, wherein said data 2 includes enterprise data related to said items, said 3 application facility is further configured to permit enterprise 4 management functions related to said enterprise data.
- 1 4. The system according to claim 1, wherein said user 2 interface contains at least one HTML document containing 3 facilities configured to permit said at least one user 4 interface to operate within said browser application.
- 1 5. The system according to claim 1, wherein said at least user 2 interface operates to permit operation and verification of 3 user-entered data related to at least one item from among 4 said items to be sold at said point of sale.

1 6. The system according to claim 1, wherein said application
2 facility is coupled to a cash drawer, said at least one user
3 interface configured to control operation of said cash
4 drawer based on said POS operation.

1 7. The system according to claim 1, wherein said application
2 facility is coupled to a cash drawer system, said cash drawer
3 system is configured to automatically open in response to
4 operation of said at least one user interface when said POS
5 operation is a cash money transaction.

1 8. A system for facilitating real-time web based point of sale
2 operations, comprising:

3 a central database management facility storing and
4 managing data related to at least one user interface form operable
5 within a browser application and to items which may be sold at a
6 point of sale; and

7 a plurality of client data processing facilities coupled to said
8 central data management facility via an electronic data network,
9 each client data processing system of said plurality of client data
10 processing systems located at a remote point of sale and coupled
11 to said central data management facility via a network
12 connection over said electronic data network, each client data
13 processing facility configured to execute said browser application,
14 to access said central database management facility via said
15 network connection to retrieve and process said at least one user
16 interface form within said browser application, to access said
17 central database management facility in real time to retrieve data
18 related to at least one of said items to facilitate a remote point of
19 sale related operation, and to cause said central database
20 management facility to manage said data about at least one of
21 said items based on said remote point of sale related operation.

22 9. The system according to claim 8, wherein said central
23 database management facility is a web enabled server
24 system configured to process web based transactions
25 received via electronic data network and at least one
26 client data processing facility from said plurality of client
27 data processing systems.

28 10. The system according to claim 8, wherein said browser
29 application is a web browser client and said at least one
30 user interface form is a web document containing fields
31 to be filled in within said browser application.

1 11. The system according to claim 8, wherein said at least
2 one user interface form is a self-contained software
3 package configured to be executed within said browser
4 application and configured to permit user entry of data
5 to be transmitted to said central database management
6 facility via said electronic data network.

1 12. The system according to claim 8, wherein at least one
2 client data processing facility among said plurality of
3 client data processing facilities includes a cash drawer
4 configured to be operated based on said at least one
5 user interface form.

1 13. The system according to claim 12, wherein said central
2 database management facility is further configured to
3 store and manage data related to said cash drawer and
4 said client data processing facility is further configured
5 to execute said browser application, to access said
6 central database management facility via said network
7 connection to retrieve and process said at least one
8 user interface form within said browser application, to

9 access said central database management facility in
10 real time to cause said central database management
11 facility to manage said data related to said cash drawer
12 based on said remote point of sale related operation.

1 14. The system according to claim 8, wherein said self-
2 contained software package includes script instructions
3 configured to control user-entry of data within said
4 browser application.

1 15. A method for facilitating real-time, web based point of sale
2 operations, comprising the steps of:

3 at a central database facility, storing and maintaining data
4 relating to items to be sold at a point of sale and at least one user
5 interface;

6 permitting access to said central database facility to receive
7 said data related to said at least one user interface;

8 processing said at least one user interface within a browser
9 application executing within an application facility; and

10 at said application facility, processing said data relating to
11 said items in real-time via said at least one user interface to
12 facilitate a POS operation related to said items.

1 16. The method according to claim 15, wherein said permitting
2 step is performed to allow a user to access said central database
3 facility via an electronic data network.

1 17. The method according to claim 16 wherein said electronic
2 data network is the Internet.

1 18. The method according to claim 15, further comprising the step
2 of controlling a peripheral device coupled to said application
3 facility based on said POS operation.

1 19. The method according to claim 18, wherein said peripheral is
2 a printer.

1 20. The method according to claim 18, wherein said peripheral is a
2 cash drawer.

1 21. The method according to claim 15, wherein at least one user
2 interface is at least one electronic form operable within said
3 application facility, said at least one electronic form permitting
4 user input and controlling said application facility to process said
5 user input and to update said data stored and maintained by said
6 central database facility.